

Crossroads for art

Camp Wing teams up with Art Complex Museum for campers art program

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Crossroads for Kids and Camp Wing have been a staple in Duxbury for years. This year, the program teamed with the Art Complex Museum as a way to integrate the arts into the lives of the campers. The Trailblazers, a group of high school campers striving towards becoming camp councilors, spent time exploring the world of art through painting, pottery, mosaic and more.

Education director at the Art Complex Museum Sally Dean-Mello coordinated the program with execu-

tive director of Crossroads for Kids Deb Donohue.

"This is the most fun thing ever," Dean-Mello said. "You give them something to try and they just do it, they love it. Through art you get to bond with them, it's really nice, they are so appreciative, polite and enthusiastic about being here - I can't wait to this again next year."

As the first year for the program, it was only offered in the last session of the camp. Dean-Mello said she hopes to offer the program all summer next year, if the museum's schedule permits it.

Crossroads for Kids provides summer camps and year-round programs to at-risk youths through social, recreational, and educational programs. The programs provide emotional, stable and positive empowering experiences for the campers in a diverse and natural setting.

The Trailblazers is a select group of

26 high school campers who have the desire to one day come back to the camp as a councilor.

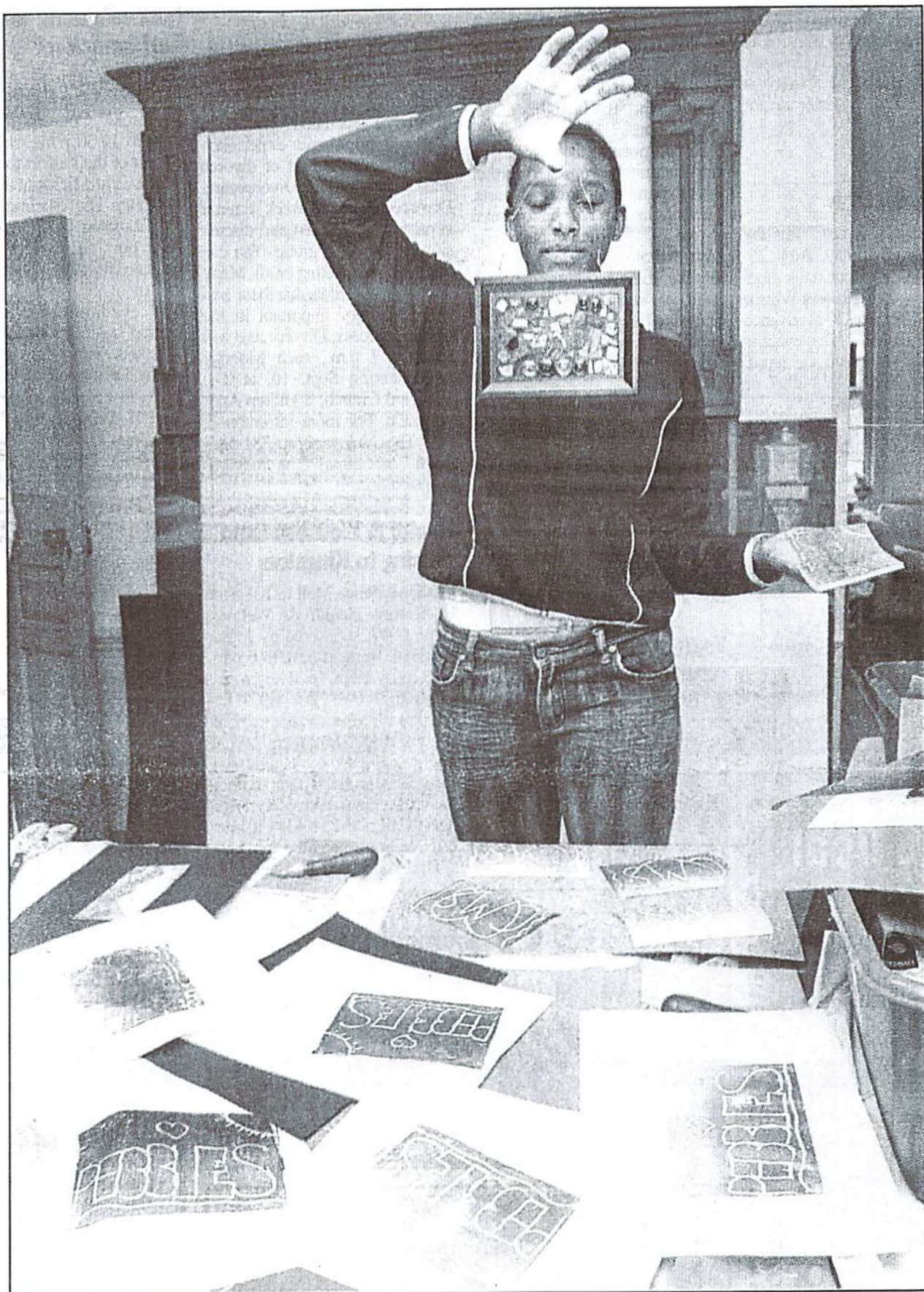
Camp counselor Suzanne DeVoe, 23, from South Boston, knows the impact Crossroads for Kids can have on a child. DeVoe has been a camp councilor for four years now, but she was a camper for nine years. "I came back to give these kids what I got from this program," she said.

Most of the children who attend Camp Wing are from neighborhoods in the inner city and around Massachusetts. Crossroads for Kids provides an outlet for the kids during the summer months, when violence tends to be the highest, DeVoe said. Without the routine of school kids have more access to guns, drugs, violence and gangs in the summer months, the camp takes them out of that environment to more peaceful place she added.

SEE ART, PAGE 5

*"I was poor but I knew that life is beautiful.
And I had no other ambition than to discover
with the help of new means those deep inner ties
that linked me to the very soil."*

— Maurice de Vlaminck, expressionist French painter.



Ezra (Pebbles) Banks holds up her colorful stained glass, framed and ready to hang.

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